

Rare Books

News of the Trade in England Auctions Get Under Way Replies to Readers' Questions

ENGLISH booksellers feel more at ease, now that the report of the committee to reconsider the luxury tax is in with recommendations that cover only autographs, manuscripts and limited editions printed on vellum or choice paper. There is some disposition to question the wisdom of taking a misal or book of hours, while permitting a Caxton, worth many times as much, to escape scot free.

Some English dealers are urging a charge for catalogues because of the high cost of all that enters into their making. American dealers will watch the outcome with interest.

In April, 1917, a New York dealer ordered certain books from an English bookseller, for which he enclosed a draft. When the order arrived on the other side the books had been sold but the draft was not returned. In July of the present year the New Yorker wrote the English dealer he had a credit on their books for the amount of the draft, which they still retained, asking that it be turned over to another concern. In the latter part of July a reply was received saying: "We have no balance standing to your credit and will be glad if you will inform us how such a balance should have been outstanding." Do English dealers generally do business in this way?

Notes From Albany.

Charles Platz has closed his shop and is now engaged on work for the United States. The shop of the late Joseph MacDonough, who died about a year ago, is now in charge of a lady who keeps it open very little of the time.

John Skinner is gradually closing out his stock of old books, replacing them with a stock of new books and stationery.

John W. Cadby has closed his business in Albany and is seeking a place with a New York bookseller.

Emory Heneberg, for some time manager of the old A. S. Clark book store in Peekskill, has resigned to engage in settlement work in New York. Mrs. Heneberg will conduct the periodical business built up by her husband.

In the Auction Room.

Dan O'Shea, who has been for a number of months with R. Davis on Vesey street, is now with Alexander M. Brown of 5 Beekman street.

The Walpole Galleries sold at two sessions, Oct. 1, the second portion of the library of the late N. C. Prickett of Ravenswood, W. Va., 538 lots. Americana, general literature and privately printed issues composed the offerings and brought good prices. The attendance was large.

Scott & O'Shaughnessy will sell about Nov. 12 the collection of arms assembled by Charles M. Schott, said to be one of the finest in the world. This house has no book sales in immediate prospect.

Hodgson & Co., the London auctioneers, announce that catalogues of the final portion of the library of the late A. M. Broadley of The Knapp, Bradpole, Dorset, are being prepared, and will include the collection of books, tracts and Grangerized sets on the Stuart period. The sale of May 9 last included many of the books, autographs and engravings of the Stuart period which Mr. Broadley collected. In this section of his library the owner took a special interest, more particularly that portion of it which related to the "Dorset wanderings" of Charles II. In the volume he compiled under the title of *The Royal Miracle*, 1812, a copy of which brought \$115 in the last sale, a wonderful collection of rare tracts, broadsides, letters, prints and ballads concerning the wanderings of Charles II. after the battle of Worcester (Sept. 3—Oct. 15, 1651), with historical introduction, appendix, bibliography and illustrations. Only five copies were issued on large paper. A general title and index of the Broadley collection will be printed after the sales.

Catalogues Received.

From R. C. MacMahon, 78 West Fifty-fifth street, New York, a catalogue of 1,230

items. Mr. MacMahon has assembled a list of books unusual in an American catalogue. With the moderate prices attached they should move quickly.

From P. F. Madigan, Bulletin 83, autograph letters, many of them very rare.

Replies to Questions.

G. T. K., NEW YORK CITY—A book whose edges have never been trimmed by the binder is "uncut." When the sheets of a book have been folded for the binder, if the issue is to be "uncut," the top and sides of these sheets are not separated, and the binder is forbidden to trim them in any way. The result is a book both "uncut" and "unopened." It is presumed that every collector of books has in view when he buys that he may at some time desire to sell his collection either at public or private sale, and as collectors know that books in that state described have more value than if they had been tampered with, the buyer looks to that to make them bring all they cost originally, and probably more.

We cannot agree with your contention that collectors like Mr. Huntington are the exception in the matter of reading their purchases. The rule is just the contrary. In large collections, comprising many thousands of volumes, no man's life would be sufficiently long to read a tenth of the works assembled.

Rare books are in the nature of museum pieces to be treasured and kept in the same condition as when bought. The joy of possession suffices. Many collectors own as many as three copies of the same work; one to treasure, another to read, the third to lend to a circle of friends.

You may find what you want in portraits at Robert Fridenberg's, 22 West Fifty-sixth street. He has the largest stock in America and knows prints thoroughly.

The authors you mention may be addressed in care of their publishers.

J. L., NEW YORK CITY—Thus far we have been unable to locate the edition of the *Dunciad* about which you inquire. Such bibliographies as we have been able to examine fail to show any issue between 1729 and 1733, nor does the British Museum catalogue furnish a clue to it. Where was your copy published and by whom?

E. F. C., NEW YORK CITY—As James Loring put out at least four undated editions of the primer, it is difficult to locate yours. No bibliographer gives a notation of the edition published by Howland at Worcester. Both of these may be of considerable value, but as nothing definite is known of them it would be difficult to assign prices to them.

J. L. E., WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.—The *American Encyclopedia*, Vol. 2, page 597, in a sketch of the Rev. G. W. Bethune states he was the son of David and Joanna (Graham) Bethune; was educated at Dickinson College and in theology at Princeton Seminary; was chaplain to seamen at Savannah, Ga.; in 1828 pastor at Rhinebeck, N. Y.; then at Utica, whence he was called to Philadelphia in 1834; in 1842 to Brooklyn, which charge he resigned in 1859 and went to Italy to recover his health, returning to the United States; his health being still poor, he returned to Italy in 1861 and died in Florence the following year. He was a fine scholar and brilliant orator. His literary work included a number of volumes; among them an edition of Walton's *Angler*, to which he appended much matter relating to angling in America, of which his love of nature and fondness for fishing admirably qualified him to write.

In 1873 J. W. Bouton issued a catalogue of the Westwood collection of Waltoniana then on sale in his store, and in a footnote to item 382 states that Bethune edited the second and not the first American edition of the *Angler* in 1848, the edition published by John Wiley in 1847 being the first.

We regret that want of space prevents our acting on your suggestion as to a series of papers on forgotten books, a subject of much interest to collectors and which could only be treated at considerable length if it was to serve the purpose you no doubt had in mind when making the suggestion.

Joseph Gollomb having written a book for boys, it would be natural to expect his wife, Zoe Beckley, to achieve simultaneous publication with a book for girls; but she has done a novel instead. *A Chance to Live* is described as a "sympathetic, homely story of plain folk." Gollomb's book is called *That Year at Lincoln High* and is about doings at a city high school. The Macmillan Company is publishing both books.

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For Story-Telling Time



WILHELMINA HARPER
Author of
"STORY-HOUR FAVORITES"

STORY telling, along with everything else, has been reduced to a science. In the good old days, which weren't as good as they might have been in some respects, the only way of responding to a child's demands for stories was to seize the nearest book and read until you or the child or the book became exhausted. There are born story tellers, of course, though pitifully few and far between, and for them one feels an admiration almost too deep for expression. But out of consideration for the rest of us and the children two books have been compiled to relieve the situation.

Wilhelmina Harper is responsible for *Story-Hour Favorites* and E. L. and A. M. Skinner for *Happy Tales for Story Time*. The Skinner sisters and Miss Harper are experts in their line which is amusing children and so we are safe in relying upon their judgment as to the modern and scientific selection of stories.

Miss Harper is children's librarian in one of the New York libraries where her story hours are a great success. Her selections include myths, fairy stories and legends from all lands and for children of varying ages. Oscar Wilde, Joel Chandler Harris, Carolyn Bailey, Eugene Field and others as well known are represented and there is a foreword of much value. Her book has the distinction, whether for good or bad, of being the only collection of stories for children within the memory of man without one from Hans Christian Andersen.

One of the most happy of her selections is *The Kingdom of the Greedy* (a story for Thanksgiving) from the French of P. J. Stahl. This is the story of how the King of the Greedy cured the insatiable lust for tarts which was undermining his country by having a tart as big as the capitol baked and forcing his people to eat it all up. The eggs alone that went into that tart would have filled a saucepan as large as a skating pond and the fattest cook that ever lived could never have held the handle. The pastry cooks rolled up their sleeves and began to knead the dough with cries of "Hi! Hi!" that could be heard for miles when they saw what was before them, which was only another way of showing the same spirit that our boys in camp do when they sing, "Where Do We Go From Here, Boys?" as they tackle a particularly hard job. When the tart was finally eaten there was no more complaining of the good wholesome soup that the King fed to his subjects.

Happy Tales for Story Time is much the same sort of book except that it is intended for very young children and is

abundantly illustrated with charming sketches and color pieces by Maginel Wright Enright. Eleanor and Ada Skinner are both teachers, one in the North High School in Columbus, Ohio, and the other in St. Agatha's School in New York. Children will be particularly pleased with the terrible story of *The Little Pig That Grumbled*, so thoroughly unpleasant a pig that when he was made into sausages all that the butcher could say of him was:

"I do not know if he himself is happy, but I am sure he is making others happy, and that, you know, is far better."

STORY HOUR FAVORITES. COMPILED BY WILHELMINA HARPER. The Century Company. \$1.25.
HAPPY TALES FOR STORY TIME. BY E. L. AND A. M. SKINNER. American Book Company. 64 cents.

A letter from Long Branch: "Gilbert K. Chesterton, in your number for September 22, expresses feeling for a young woman 'who would rather be given a tangerine orange than offered the present of a tangent.'"

"Apparently the idea in the author's mind is that the young woman might either receive a tangerine or the present of a tangent, the tangerine being given to her and not her to it, and the tangent being offered to her and not her to it. Why should he not say so?"

"Does what he does say really mean what he intended to say?"

"Has he blundered in his grammar, or can we accept him as authority for what appears to be unnecessary and confusing extension of the use of the words 'given' and 'offered.'"

GEORGE WHITE.

Why spoil a good point by a touch of affectation? Mr. White knows perfectly well what Mr. Chesterton meant. To make the subject of a sentence with a passive verb what would be the indirect object of the same sentence with the active form of the verb is ungrammatical. It is also done. If ever usage can establish a form of speech "he was given" so and so (for "so and so was given him") is part and parcel of English speech and writing. Personally we don't like it and try to avoid it. But those who don't tolerate it are hopelessly in minority.

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